



**FRANCHISING®**  
Building local businesses,  
one opportunity at a time.

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the International Franchise Association (IFA), the world's oldest and largest organization representing franchising worldwide, I write in support of the H.R. 1628, the *American Health Care Act*. IFA is encouraged by the steps taken in H.R. 1628 to advocate for health care reform that will address cost containment and flexibility for consumers and employers.

Locally owned franchises are America's hidden small businesses, with 733,000 establishments across the country. The entrepreneurs who make up the franchising system directly contribute \$674.3 billion in economic output, accounting for roughly 2.5% of the private sector U.S. GDP.

IFA has worked diligently to educate lawmakers that certain provisions under the Affordable Care Act were unworkable for franchise owners who work across various industries, including restaurants, retail, lodging, and service-related businesses. With rising medical costs being a top concern of both individuals and employers, the impact of more flexible and affordable choices would be significant. Restoring health care choices by expanding Health Savings Accounts, allowing small business to pool together resources and purchase insurance across state lines, and eliminating the employer mandate penalties will lay the ground work for a 21st century, market-based, system.

For these reasons, IFA believes the *American Health Care Act* is a step in the right direction, and we urge swift Congressional passage. IFA will continue to work with lawmakers to ensure additional relief with respect to the employer mandate and the employer reporting requirements is provided for small businesses and their employees. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Matt Haller  
Senior Vice President Government Relations & Public Affairs

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives